

## POLREP

Date: January 18, 1993  
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 Subject: Pierce Waste Oil Site (MORECO)  
 Springfield, IL.  
 Polrep No: Polrep 3  
 Site No: RS  
 D.O. No: IT #7460-05-238 / RES #5001-05-315  
 Response Auth.: CERCIA/Emergency Response  
 NPL Status: NON-NPL  
 Start Date: 07/30/92

## SITUATION:

The MORECO-Pierce Waste Oil Services Site is an inactive waste oil recycling facility located at 1925 East Madison Street. The site is situated on approximately 4 acres of land in an industrial and residential area on the northeast side of Springfield. The property is surrounded by a chain link fence with locked gates. The site contains 86 aboveground storage tanks, 2 known underground storage tanks, and 2500 drums which contain waste oils, petroleum refinery wastes, chlorinated solvents, and acids. There are nine buildings on-site which were used for offices, storage, maintenance, utility sheds and production. Other features of the site include oil recycling equipment (heaters, boilers, condensers, and separators), diked and bermed areas, and miscellaneous metal debris.

On 3/13/92, IEPA requested that US EPA evaluate the site for a removal action to address abandoned wastes in tanks and drums, and to address soil and groundwater contamination from past releases. OSC Gebien and TAT conducted a removal action site assessment (SA) on 3/11/92. The SA Report was completed on 5/22/92, and recommended the removal of approximately: 400,000 gallons of liquid wastes from tanks and drums, 100,000 gallons of sludge wastes, 1,767 cu. yds. of contaminated soils, 500 cu. yds. of contaminated debris, and 88 tons of scrap steel from the tanks.

On 7/30/92 and 12/29/92, the US EPA, the Emergency Response Cleanup Services (ERCS) contractor, and the Technical Assistance Team (TAT) responded to releases of rainwater/oily wastes from the site's tank farm containment systems at the request of the IEPA. On 7/30/92, MOERCO and ERCS pumped approximately 12,000 gallons of rainwater/oily wastes from the containment areas into two tanks on-site, tanks 79 and 81. During the second response of 12/29/92, MORECO refused to participate in response activities. ERCS pumped approximately 8,500 gallons of rainwater/oily wastes from the containment areas into tank 79. The containment systems could not be completely emptied due to frozen conditions. Portions of the site's perimeter fence were knocked down and unauthorized access was evident. ERCS repaired those portions of the fence to minimize unauthorized entry.

On 12/31/92, Mr. Robert Bowden, Chief, Emergency and Enforcement Response Branch verbally authorized an initial funding of **non** for ERCS Riedel Environmental Services (RES) to initiate removal activities including disposal of wastes. Mr. Bowden directed OSC Gebien to prepare an action memo and start removal activities by 1/11/93. On 1/8/93, OSC Gebien, RES Response Manager, IEPA representatives, and City of Springfield representatives met at the Springfield Municipal Building to discuss and coordinate the planned removal activities. During that afternoon, IEPA issued a press release detailing the response action. See previous POLREPS for historical details.

#### ACTIONS TAKEN:

-On 1/11/93, the RES crew and equipment moved to the site. The RES crew cleaned debris from the office/maintenance building and the surrounding support zone area, and unloaded equipment to the maintenance building. The decon trailer and office trailer were delivered and leveled. Mara McGinnis, IEPA Office of Community Relations, guided television and newspaper media from Springfield, IL and Champaign, IL around the perimeter of the site and provided interviews. Also interviewed by the media were OSC Gebien and IEPA Greg Dunn.

-On 1/12/93, the RES crew continued to setup the support zone. Gravel was spread in the support zone roadways and walkways to facilitate access. Mr. Lawrence Leveque, U.S. EPA Office of Public Affairs, visited the site and met with Ms. Mara McGinnis, IEPA, to coordinate public affairs. The TAT chemist arrived with the FASP Lab, and the TATs setup the FASP Lab in the maintenance building.

On 1/13/93, the RES crew continued to setup the support zone. The TAT collected 3 soil samples from the support zone for PCB analyses in the FASP Lab. Analyses of the 3 samples indicated non-detect (<1ppm) PCB.

-On 1/14/93, tank sampling operations were started. Tanks T-67 and T-20 were sampled. Hazcatting/PCB screening of samples in the FASP Lab continued. The TAT collected 13 soil samples from the roadways within the exclusion zone for PCB analyses in the FASP Lab.

-On 1/15/93, Tanks T-88, T-1, T-3, T-10, and T-12 were sampled. Gravel was delivered to the site and access roads to the tank farms were improved to allow continued tank sampling. Hazcatting/PCB screening of samples in the FASP Lab continued. One 40 ft. flat bed trailer and one 30 foot dump trailer were delivered to the site for loading with metal scrap.

-On 1/16/93, Tanks T-6, T-5, T-4, T-13, T-2, T-14, T-50, T-51, T-52, T-26 and T-27 were sampled. Tanks T-15, T-49, T-16, and T-17 were inspected and found to be empty. Hazcatting/PCB screening of samples in the FASP Lab continued. The RES crew started loading metal scrap from the support zone to the scrap trucks. The drum crusher was repaired and tested.

-On 1/17/93, Tanks T-44, T-22, T-23, T-24, and T-25 were sampled. Tanks T-90 and T-89 were inspected and found to be empty. Hazcatting/PCB screening of samples in the FASP Lab continued. The RES crew continued loading metal scrap from the support zone to the scrap trucks. Drum crushing operations were started in the drum storage area in the center of the site. 54 drums were crushed and placed in a roll-off box.

#### NEXT STEPS:

-Monitor the circulation of the site's action memorandum with OSC Ken Theisen. OSC Theisen will replace OSC Gebien at the site from 1/19/92 to 1/26/92.

-Continue inventory/sampling of tanks and hazcating of waste samples.

-Continue empty drum crushing operations.

-Install gate on west side of site in the support zone to improve truck access.

-Complete arrangements with IEPA for shredding of tires in the support zone.

-Evaluate management options for site wastewaters.

KEY ISSUES:

-U.S. EPA and PRC Inc. are conducting a potentially responsible party (PRP) search which is expected to be completed during 2/93. When identified, viable PRPs will be notified of ongoing U.S. EPA response activities.

-Tank sampling operations are difficult due to cold weather conditions, which have caused some of the tanks to freeze. Temperatures have been in the teens to the mid twenties with wind chills of below 0 °F. Continued cold weather conditions will increasingly hamper sampling operations due to freezing.

ERCS costs including await bills will exceed the current delivery order by the end of the 1/18/93 work day. The OSC will make arrangements to increase the delivery order on 1/18/93.

COST INFORMATION:

	TO DATE	CEILING
non responsive		

\* Estimated by OSC  
\* \* Based on daily 1900 - 55 of  
1/17/92.